

APPL. NO. 10/805,783

ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 2003P18810US

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the pending Office Action mailed on June 26, 2008. Because this Response is submitted with a certificate of electronic submission in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.8 on or before the shortened period for reply set to expire on **September 26, 2008**, this Response is timely filed.

I. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiners Leach and Casler for taking the time to conduct a teleconference with Applicants' representative Matthew T. Ridsdale (Reg. No. 56,832) to discuss the proposed amendments to the claims 1 and 11 to 18 in light of the disclosure of *Sliwa*. In particular, the distinction between the disclosed housing of *Sliwa* and the claimed housing carried within a transducer case was discussed. Should another interview be warranted upon additional reflection and/or examination, Applicants request Examiners Leach and Casler to contact one or more of Applicants' representatives to discuss this matter further.

II. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Prior to this Response, claims 1 to 18 were pending and at issue. By this Response, claims 1 and 11 to 18 have been amended, none of the pending claims have been canceled, and no new claims have been added. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 1 and 11 to 18 add no new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Thus claims 1 to 18 remain pending and at issue.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejects: claims 1, 5 to 8, 11, 13 and 15 to 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,560,362 to Sliwa, Jr. et al. ("*Sliwa*"); and claims 2 to 4, 9, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over *Sliwa* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,762,066 to Law et al. ("*Law*").

Applicants respectfully traverse the anticipation and obviousness rejections based on *Sliwa* with and without *Law*. In particular, amended independent claim 1 recites, in relevant part, a method of cooling an ultrasound transducer array that includes immersing, at least partially, said transducer array in a volume of fluid contained within a housing carried within a transducer case. Amended independent

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claim 11 recites, an ultrasound transducer module carried within a transducer case, the ultrasound transducer module includes a housing carried within a transducer case, a fluid contained within said housing and a transducer located in said housing and at least partially immersed in said fluid. Similarly, amended independent claim 18 recites an ultrasound transducer module carried within a transducer case that includes means for immersing, at least partially, said transducer module in a volume of fluid contained within a housing. Thus, the disclosed methods and device include a transducer module carried within a transducer case, the transducer module including a fluid filled housing that encloses and immerses a transducer and/or transducer array.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 to 18 as anticipated and/or rendered obvious by *Sliwa* with or without *Law*. *Sliwa* discloses an ultrasound transducer assembly having a housing (2), a transducer array (12) mounted in the housing (2), and active cooling mechanism (16) positioned adjacent to the transducer array (12) for actively removing heat generated by the array by transport of heat energy from the affected site. Thus, it is clear that the ultrasound transducer assembly of *Sliwa* includes a single housing into which both the transducer array and the active cooling mechanism are deployed. *Sliwa* doesn't disclose a transducer module much less a transducer module that may be carried within the housing, or that the transducer module itself includes a **separate** fluid filled housing that encloses and immerses a transducer and/or transducer array (see FIG. 2 of the pending application).

Law does not provide the teaching or disclose missing from *Sliwa*. *Law* simply discloses a transducer member that is rotatably mounted within a probe housing. *Law* does not disclose a transducer module that may be carried within the housing, or that the transducer module itself includes a separate fluid filled housing that encloses and immerses a transducer and/or transducer array.

Because *Sliwa* does not disclose each and every element set forth in the claims, *Sliwa* cannot anticipate amended independent claims 1, 11 and 18 or any of claims dependent thereon. Moreover, because the combination of *Sliwa* and *Law* does not disclose each and every element set forth in the claims, the combination of *Sliwa* and *Law* cannot provide the basis for establishing a *prima facie* case of

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obviousness. Furthermore, because the transducer and/or transducer array are immersed and enclosed within the housing of the transducer module (see FIG. 2 of the pending application), improved cooling may be achieved by inducing movement in the fluid to more uniformly redistribute the thermal energy that is generated by the array throughout the fluid volume of the housing. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims 1 to 18 are patentable over *Sliwa* either alone or in combination with *Law*.

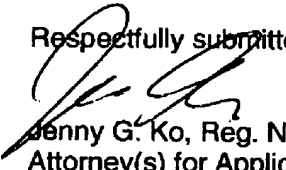
IV. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and submits that the above-identified patent application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits reconsideration of same. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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